

generating at least one predetermined request, which predetermined request is addressed to a connectivity test server in the destination network, and transmitting the at least one predetermined request to the wireless access network. The method further comprises at the mobile device determining whether a response to the at least one predetermined request is received from the wireless access network and whether a received response corresponds to a predetermined response which is known to be provided by the connectivity test server in case the connectivity test server is reached by the at least one predetermined request.

[0015] Moreover, a second method of supporting an access to a destination network by a mobile device via a wireless access network is proposed. The method comprises at a connectivity test server in the destination network receiving at least one predetermined request from a mobile device via the wireless access network. The at least one predetermined request is defined specifically for enabling a mobile device to test whether a connection to the destination network has been established. The method further comprises at the connectivity test server generating a predetermined response to the at least one received predetermined request and transmitting the predetermined response to the mobile device via the wireless access network.

[0016] Moreover, a mobile device supporting an access to a destination network via a wireless access network is proposed. The mobile device comprises processing means adapted to generate at least one predetermined request, which predetermined request is addressed to a connectivity test server in the destination network, and to provide the at least one predetermined request for transmission to the wireless access network. The mobile device further comprises processing means adapted to determine whether a response to a transmitted at least one predetermined request is received from the wireless access network and whether a received response corresponds to a predetermined response which is known to be provided by the connectivity test server in case the connectivity test server is reached by the at least one predetermined request.

[0017] The processing means can be realized in hardware and/or in software. The may comprise for instance corresponding software code and a processor executing this software code. Alternatively, they could be realized for instance by a circuit which is integrated in a chip.

[0018] Moreover, a connectivity test server supporting an access to a destination network by a mobile device via a wireless access network is proposed. The connectivity test server comprises processing means adapted to receive at least one predetermined request from a mobile device via the wireless access network. The at least one predetermined request is defined specifically for enabling a mobile device to test whether a connection to the destination network has been established. The connectivity test server further comprises processing means adapted to generate a predetermined response to at least one received predetermined request and to provide the predetermined response for transmission to the mobile device via the wireless access network.

[0019] The processing means can be realized again in hardware and/or in software. The may comprise for instance corresponding software code and a processor executing this software code. Alternatively, they could be realized for instance by a circuit which is integrated in a chip.

[0020] Moreover, a communication system is proposed, which comprises the proposed mobile device and the proposed connectivity test server.

[0021] Moreover, a first software code for supporting an access to a destination network by a mobile device via a wireless access network is proposed. When being executed in a processor of the mobile device, the software code generates at least one predetermined request, which predetermined request is addressed to a connectivity test server in the destination network, and provides the at least one predetermined request for transmission to the wireless access network. Further, it determines whether a response to the at least one predetermined request is received from the wireless access network and whether a received response corresponds to a predetermined response which is known to be provided by the connectivity test server in case the connectivity test server is reached by the at least one predetermined request.

[0022] Moreover, a second software code for supporting an access to a destination network by a mobile device via a wireless access network is proposed. When being executed in a processor of a connectivity test server in the destination network, the software code receives at least one predetermined request from a mobile device via the wireless access network. The at least one predetermined request is defined specifically for enabling a mobile device to test whether a connection to the destination network has been established. Further, the software code generates a predetermined response to the at least one received predetermined request and provides the predetermined response for transmission to the mobile device via the wireless access network.

[0023] Finally, a readable medium is proposed, in which the first or the second proposed software code is stored. The readable medium can be for instance a separate memory device, a memory for implementation in a mobile device or a connectivity test server, respectively, that can be accessed by a processor for executing the stored software code, or a more comprehensive module for implementation in a mobile device or a connectivity test server, respectively, etc.

[0024] The invention proceeds from the idea that a mobile device desiring to access a destination network via a wireless access network could first 'ping' a test service in the destination network, which would respond with a well-known response. The destination network can be in particular, though not exclusively, the Internet.

[0025] It is an advantage of the invention that it provides fast information to a mobile device on whether there is a connection to the destination network via the wireless access network or whether the wireless access network blocks the access to the destination network, either temporarily or permanently.

[0026] Obtaining such information is of particular advantage to a mobile device, in case the wireless access network is unknown so far to the mobile device, for instance if the wireless access network had been selected by a user with a "search wireless access network" functionality offered by the mobile device.

[0027] The reception of a predetermined response to the at least one predetermined request may be considered to indicate a connection to the destination network.

[0028] If the access to the destination network has been requested by an application or a mobile IP or VPN client of the mobile device, this application or client may then be informed about the connection to the destination network. Thus, the application or client can be informed as soon as